

Appleby Archaeology

Notes of a Committee Meeting held at 2, Banks Foot on Thursday 26th September 2019.

Those present were:

Martin Joyce, Chair; Martin Railton, Trish Shaw, Mick Yates, Linda Ellison, Adrian Waite, Barbara Blenkinsip, Catherine Hooper.

Apologies were received from Chris Wilson.

1/9/2019 Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on 23/5/2019 were approved.

2/9/2019 Matters arising from those minutes

There were no matters arising

3/9/2019 Membership

Martin Joyce reported back on memberships. We finished last year on 47, four down from the previous year. This translates into 61 members. It is hoped that there will be an increase in numbers in October when we start a new subscription year.

4/9/2019 Treasurer's Report

Chris Wilson, the Treasurer had sent the current Accounts for consideration and reported that our balance at the Cumberland Building Society stands at £1241.26.

Martin Joyce suggested that the financial situation looks fairly stable at the present time. We also have a stock of postage stamps amounting to some £100.

5/9/2019 Research/ Dig-Appleby

Martin Railton reported that we have successfully undertaken and completed the work plan for the year. This includes:

- 3 days of test-pitting in Bongate and Boroughgate.
- 1 week of trench digging and excavation at the Alms-Houses.
- A period at Castle Bank, where we undertook geophysical training and also survey work as well as excavation work on what is believed to be a medieval cattle shed.
- Two finds washing sessions which were very interesting and rewarding in terms of finds.

The lesson to learn is that it is better to start such work earlier in the year than later. It was unanimously agreed that the first year has been productive both in an archaeological sense and also on a public relations level.

We have also received a very amenable offer of help from Northern Archaeological Associates who are willing to assist in the processing of finds.

Martin is hoping to give a full presentation at the AGM.

He also said that Appleby Castle was very interested in us doing some survey work at the castle, and in putting a trench through the moat. This development might enable us to undertake some geophysical work in the Castle park. This might also release some funding from the Castle Studies Trust. Martin is awaiting a letter of confirmation.

Out of the £49,000 available from the National Lottery funding we have spent £10,715 and are therefore well within our budget for the year.

6/9/2019 Correspondence

Martin Joyce reported that Appleby Town Council had requested a letter of support which he has responded to and lent our collective backing.

Martin Railton has had a request from Annette Thornton at Morland Primary School asking whether or not the school, and possibly some Secondary Schools also, might get more actively involved in our work. It was agreed that we should support this request as positively as we possibly can.

Eden District Council is holding Consultation Events at Rheged on 'Help Shape the Future of Eden'. It was agreed that a representative, possibly Martin Railton or Adrian Waite might attend these sessions.

7/9/2019 Future of the Newsletter- proposals for discussion

The committee had been asked to consider three proposals:

- All-digital circulation - no more printed/mailed copies
- New format - produced and circulated via Mailchimp
- Free to all

The committee accepted the first two proposals without reservation and agreed that these changes should be recommended to the membership at the AGM.

After much debate, however, it was unanimously agreed that newsletters should **not** be free to all and that they should only be sent out to fully paid-up Members.

However, it was agreed that newsletters over a year old should continue to be available on the website .

8/9/2019 Posters and Publicity

Richard Stephens is still willing to provide all posters and publicity material but requires a contact willing to distribute these.

Post-meeting note: Richard has been asked to send copies of the poster to the following

- Martin Joyce (for Penrith and Milburn)
- Barbara Blenkinship (for Blencarn)
- Carol Doherty (for Kirby Stephen)
- Trish (for Appleby)

9/9/2019 Lecture-Evening coffee post-Phyl

It was agreed that we should continue to offer refreshments at the end of lecture evening. Trish will approach Pauline and Maggie to see if they are prepared to help in this respect. Trish will also lead on trying to co-opt other members to volunteer their support.

10/9/2019 Lecture-programmes

2019-20 programme:

- AGM and Members evening - Martin and Trish will also talk in more detail about the Dig-Appleby project. Martin will also approach Armstrong Wrdell to see if they could talk about the Roy Ashley/Co-Op watching brief.
- 9/4/2020 - now confirmed as Ronan Toolis : The pre-history of Dumfries and Galloway

The 2019-20 lecture programme is now complete

2020-21 programme:

We've already booked a talk on the Ness of Brodgar
Strat Halliday on Scottish hill forts and Andrew Nicholson on the Lockerbie Hoard
are both strong possibilities if we want to progress a Scottish theme .

11/9/2019 AOB

Martin Railton asked about insurance for our expensive geophysical survey equipment. It was agreed that we should examine the existing insurance policy and if that proved to be inadequate to upgrade it as necessary.

12/9/2019 Date of next meeting

Thursday 5th December at 7-30pm, venue to be confirmed